

and several other wild animals. The spot was again visited at the same hour next day but the animal was not seen.

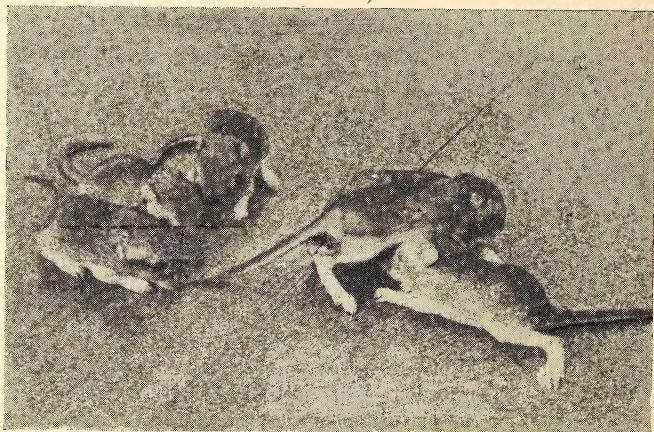
CENTRAL REGIONAL STATION,
ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
JABALPUR,
July 20, 1964.

H. KHAJURIA

5. YOUNG OF THE INDIAN GERBILLE, *TATERA INDICA*
INDICA HARDWICKE

(With a photograph)

A brood of six young (4 ♀♀ and 2 ♂♂) of the Indian Gerbille *Tatera indica indica* Hardwicke, each weighing 25 gm., was taken on 20-11-63 by the writer from a burrow at village Manot on Mandla-Dindori Road, Madhya Pradesh. The mother escaped. They were still blind but were well covered with hair. The following unrecorded differences from the adults, two of which were also collected from the same locality, have been noted.



Young of the Indian Gerbille, *Tatera indica indica* Hardwicke

Photo : H. Khajuria

Hair growth is imperfect around the urinogenital organs, the inner side of the thigh, the chest, the throat, the inner side of the front legs,

and the lips. The upper portion of the snout in front of the black patch is almost hairless. There is a large hairless patch behind the ears which in the adult is covered over by white hairs. The black spots on the snout, around the eyes, behind the ears, and behind the ankles are comparatively larger and darker. There is a prominent white patch above the eye extending almost to the ear and a smaller one below it. The ears, especially their posterior aspect, are much more hairy. The whiskers are all white and comparatively longer. The pencil of long black hairs at the tip of the tail, a characteristic of the adult, is absent. The lateral light-coloured streaks on the tail are shorter. The light rufous and grey patches on the anterior side of the front leg are more pronounced. The soles of the feet are much lighter but the pads are darker. The tail is less hairy. There is very little individual variation except that the lateral lighter streaks on the tail may be shorter or longer, and the light rufous patch on the upper parts of the front leg may be absent.

The clitoris is nearly as large as the penis. Since the testes are not visible and the urinogenital opening is almost invisible to the naked eye, sex determination is difficult.

As shown by the measurements given below the proportions of their body parts are different from those of the adults collected from the same locality in the same season:

No. & description	Head & Body	Ear	Hind Foot	Tail
Measurements in mm. with mean values in parentheses				
6 young	67-75 (69.8)	9.5-11 (10)	23.5 25.00 (24.33)	62-66 (64.8)
1 Adult	196	24	40	210.8
Measurements as percentages of hind foot				
6 young	286.9	41.1	—	266.3
1 Adult	490	60	—	527

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